

REPORT OF

Title: THE INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR ON WOMEN IN LITERATURE AND HISTORY THROUGH AGES

Date: 6th September 2020

Time: 6pm (IST)

Resource Persons: Dr. Paromita Das,
Professor & Former Head of the Deptt. of History,
Gauhati University, Assam, India,
ICCR visiting Professor in Indian Studies Chair (History)
Mohammed University, Robot, Morocco.

And
Prof. Mahasveta Baruah,
Deptt. Of English, University of Delaware, USA.

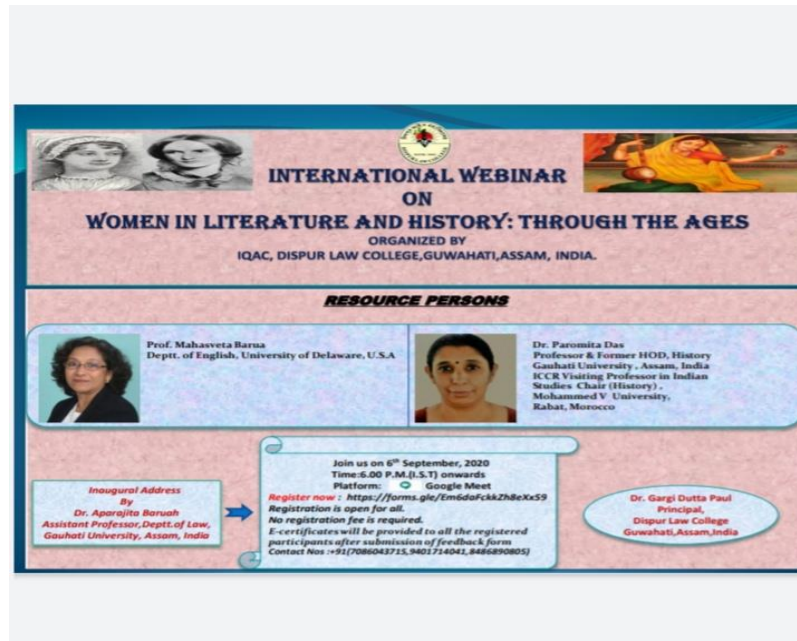


Fig.1: Flyer of the International Webinar

IQAC, Dispur Law College has organized an International Webinar at 6pm (IST) on 6th September, 2020. The webinar started with the welcome address of the Principal of the College, Dr Gargi Dutta Paul.

The Resource Person of the first session, Dr. Paromita Das has delivered her valuable speech on Women in Literature and History through the Ages. In her speech Dr. Das has delivered a detailed

and in depth analysis of the status of women throughout the ancient Indian history and literature especially in the two great epics i.e. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata and in Manu Smriti, Jataka etc.

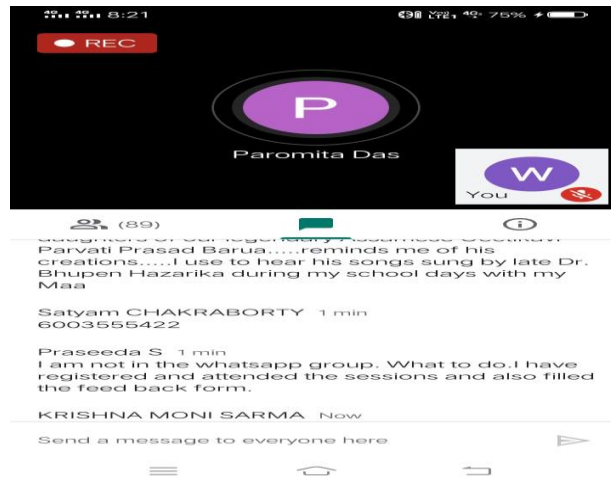


Fig.2: Resource Person of the first session, Dr. Paromita Das delivered speech on Women in Literature and History through the Ages

Then she gave a detailed analysis of the female characters of the Mahabharata and stated that males occupied higher status than women. Women were considered as gifts or trophies and treated as commodities. She specially mentioned about Ambika, Amabalika and the custom of Niyoga (a woman whose husband is either incapable or died, would request and appoint a man for helping her bear a child), where women did not have a right on her body.

She also talked about how women were used as political tool to conclude treaty with enemy. She referred to the reign of Samudra Gupta in this context. Thus the status of women were portrayed in a very disrespectful manner.

In the second session the resource person Prof. Mahasveta Baruah delivered a speech on the Women in Literature in western perspective. She had delivered her speech by citing examples from the Bible and other ancient European literature, like Greek mythology to some selected reference to the Victorian era of English literature. She cited examples from Ovid's 'Metamorphosis' how women took the role of men and defied their expected maternal instinct.

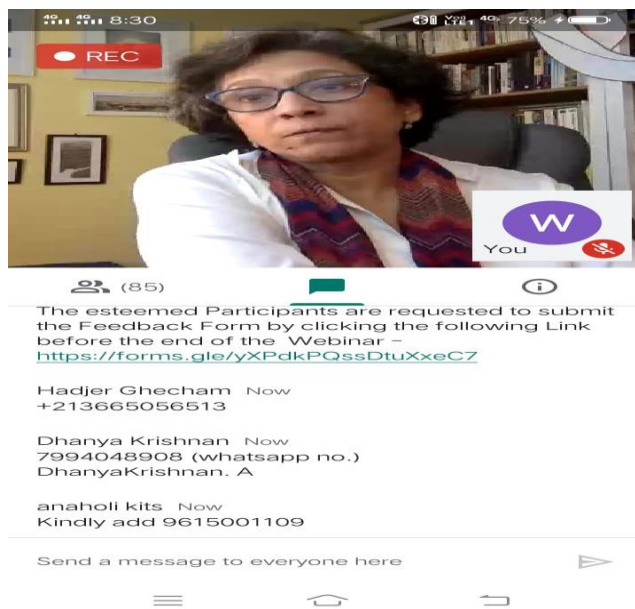


Fig.3: Resource person Prof. Mahasveta Baruah delivered a speech on the Women in Literature in western perspective.

Women were used as Muses or inspiration. She cites examples of Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth where she is negatively portrayed, the three witches. Portia of 'The Merchant of Venice' is cited to show how Shakespeare used the dress changing device in plays where women showed their prudence. Prof. Baruah also talked about the positive aspect of women portrayed in literature by women writers themselves

At the end of both the sessions Prof. Dr. Paromita Das and Prof. Mahasveta Baruah responded to the queries of the participants. About 190 participants had joined in the Webinar. Finally, the Webinar ended with the Vote of Thanks offered by the Convener of the Webinar Dr. Indrani Medhi.

Authenticated by:

(Dr. Gargi Dutta Paul)
Principal
Dispur Law College

(Dr. Swapna Manindranath Deka)
Coordinator, IQAC
Dispur Law College